

U.S.S. PERKINS (DD-877)  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
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From: Commanding Officer, USS PERKINS (DD 877)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09B9),  
Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.

Subj: Command History; report of

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Encl: (1) USS PERKINS (DD 877) Command History (1970) Cover Page  
(2) Chronology of Significant Events  
(3) Narrative  
(4) Biography of Commander Richard Wallace REED, USN  
(5) Roster of Personnel

1. Enclosures (1) through (5) are submitted in accordance with reference (a).

  
R. W. REED

Copy to:  
CINCPACFLT  
COMCRUDES PAC  
COMCRUDES FLOT NINE  
COMDESRON SEVEN  
COMDESDIV SEVEN-TWO

COMMAND HISTORY  
(1970)

U.S.S. PERKINS (DD 877)

COMMANDER RICHARD WALLACE REED, USN  
COMMANDING OFFICER

ENCLOSURE (1)

## CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

5-6 JAN FAST Cruise

13-14 JAN Underway for Independent Ship Exercises,  
Southern California Operating Areas (SOCAL)

28-30 JAN Participated in shore bombardment exercises,  
San Clemente Island NGFS range

6 FEB Received COMCRUDESPAC PMS inspection

9 FEB-19 MAR Assigned as DATC engineering school ship

4-8 MAY Participated in COMTUEX 9-70

8-12 JUN COMDESDIV 72 administered command inspection.  
COMCRUDESPAC conducted annual supply  
inspection (ASI)

22-23 JUN Underway for independent operations in  
SOCAL OpAreas

13-14 JUL Underway for Operational Readiness Inspection  
(ORI) given by COMDESDIV 72

27 JUL Deployed for Western Pacific in company with  
other DESDIV 72 ships and USS RICHARD B.  
ANDERSON (DD 786)

1 AUG Arrived in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

4 AUG Departed from Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

7 AUG Made brief stop for fuel at Midway Island

11 AUG Came under the operational control of  
Commander Seventh Fleet

14 AUG Made brief stop for fuel at Guam, M.I.  
Conducted ASW operations with USS JAMES  
MONROE (SSBN 622)

18 AUG Arrived Subic Bay, R.P. for upkeep

21 AUG Departed Subic Bay for gunline assignments

24-26 AUG Assigned TU 70.8.9 and conducted NGFS in 4MR

27-30 AUG Assigned TU 70.8.9 and conducted NGFS in 2MR

31 AUG Joined Task Group 77.4 for plane guard duties

ENCLOSURE (2)

3-4 SEP Took part in ASW exercises with USS DIODON (SS 349), USS ROBISON (DDG 12) and USS GOLDSBOROUGH (DDG 20)

4-6 SEP Assigned as plane guard unit for TG 77.6

6 SEP Departed Yankee Station for Subic Bay

8 SEP Arrived Subic Bay for upkeep

10 SEP Departed Subic Bay for typhoon evasion

12 SEP Returned to Subic Bay

14-15 SEP Conducted NGFS exercises at shore bombardment range at Tabones, R.P.

15 SEP Returned to Subic Bay for upkeep

19 SEP Left Subic Bay in company with USS BUCK (DD 761) for transit to Kao-Hsiung, Taiwan

21 SEP Arrived in Kao-Hsiung for port visit

25 SEP Departed Kao-Hsiung and steamed independently to the Republic of Vietnam coast for NGFS duties (2MR)

27 SEP-10 OCT Assigned to TU 70.8.9 and conducted NGFS in 2MR

28 SEP CDR R. W. REED, USN, reported on board for duty as Commanding Officer

3 OCT CDR R. W. REED, USN, relieved CDR L. H. HAMEL III, USN, as Commanding Officer

10 OCT Detached from TU 70.8.9

11 OCT-10 NOV Assigned to plane guard duties with USS ORISKANY (TG 77.5). During this period, CO PERKINS assigned duties as Screen Commander (CTU 77.5.2)

18 OCT Arrived in Yokosuka, Japan for upkeep period

28 OCT Departed Yokosuka for Okinawa Operating Areas for ASW and AAW exercises. Upon completion of the exercise period, the Task Unit proceeded to Yankee Station

10 NOV Detached from TG 77.5. Proceeded independently to Subic Bay for upkeep. CO PERKINS relieved as CTU 77.5.2

12 NOV Arrived Subic Bay

16 NOV Departed Subic Bay for Yankee Station in company with TG 77.4. CO PERKINS assigned duties as Screen Commander (CTU 77.4.2)

28 NOV Detached from TG 77.4. CO PERKINS relieved as CTU 77.4.2. Reported for duty with TG 77.0.1 on North SAR station

11-13 DEC Returned to Yankee Station for Operation "Beacon Tower Six"

14 DEC Returned to NSAR station for escort duty

17 DEC Departed NSAR station. Proceeded independently to Hong Kong

20 DEC Arrived Hong Kong for eight days rest and recreation period

28 DEC Departed Hong Kong

29-30 DEC Assigned to TG 77.4 for plane guard duties on Yankee Station

30 DEC Proceeded to Subic Bay for upkeep period

PERKINS spent the first seven months of 1970 preparing for her deployment to the Western Pacific scheduled for July. This preparation included underway training, tender and upkeep periods, and inspection for the readiness of shipboard equipment and administration.

During January and February the ship spent seven days at sea. During these underway periods PERKINS conducted independent ship exercises, including Naval Gunfire Support Training at the San Clemente Island range. For 38 days during February and March PERKINS served as school ship for students enrolled at the Development and Training Center Engineering Officer Course. The main engineering spaces served as the classroom for the students for six weeks, during which time they studied the equipment and capabilities of the 600-PSI ship propulsion system. The latter half of the period was conducted with the ship underway.

From 4 to 8 May PERKINS steamed in the Southern California OPAREA participating in COMPTUEX 9-70. During this time the ship conducted AAW, ASW, NGFS and independent ship exercises.

PERKINS' Command Inspection was administered by COMDESDIV 72 from 8-12 June. The Annual Supply Inspection was given during the same period by COMCRUDESPAC.

On 22 and 23 June PERKINS again got underway for independent operations in the local operating areas. The final underway period prior to deployment was 13 to 14 July, when the ship was given her Operational Readiness Inspection by COMDESDIV 72.

Prior to deploying, all inport periods were spent in San Diego. During these periods PERKINS had tender and restricted availabilities with the USS DIXIE (AD 14) and USS PIEDMONT (AD 17), in addition to a ship-to-ship availability with the USS KLONDIKE (AR 22).

On 27 July, under the command of the Division Commander, PERKINS and the other ships of Destroyer Division 72, USS LYNDE MCCORMICK (DDG 8), USS WILTSIE (DD 716) and USS BUCK (DD 761), left San Diego for a seven-month deployment to the Western Pacific as Task Unit 15.8.5. Later that day, USS RICHARD B. ANDERSON (DD 786) joined the Task Unit. The Task Unit proceeded to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, arriving on 1 August. While in Pearl Harbor, certain shipboard personnel attended numerous briefings at CINCPACFLT Headquarters and received vital information related to the deployment. After three days in Pearl Harbor, the Task Unit (less the BUCK) sortied on 4 August for transit to Midway Island, where a brief fuel stop was made on 7 August.

ENCLOSURE (3)

On 11 August PERKINS came under the operational control of Commander Seventh Fleet. The Task Unit stopped briefly to refuel again in Guam, M.I., on 14 August. That evening, after getting underway from refueling, the ship participated in ASW exercises with the USS JAMES MONROE (SSBN 622), and then the Task Unit continued to Subic Bay, arriving on 18 August. While in Subic, required repairs were accomplished by ship's force and the Ship Repair Facility.

PERKINS departed Subic Bay three days later, arriving off the coast of the Republic of Vietnam's Fourth Military Region on 24 August. The ship operated as part of Task Unit 70.8.9 in 4MR for two days in support of the 21st ARVN Division. PERKINS then proceeded to the Second Military Region where she supported the Army's 2nd Battalion, 1st Cavalry until 30 August.

One September saw PERKINS on Yankee Station where she joined Task Group 77.4, which included USS SHANGRI-LA (CVA 38) and USS ROBISON (DDG 12). On 3 September, the ship took time out to participate in ASW exercises with USS DIODON (SS 349), along with the ROBISON and USS GOLDSBOROUGH (DDG 20). From 4 to 6 September PERKINS again returned to plane guard duties, this time with the USS AMERICA (CVA 66). On 8 September the ship returned to Subic Bay for a six-day upkeep period.

The upkeep was cut short by Typhoon Georgia. On the afternoon of the 10th, with typhoon condition TWO set and Georgia's projected track passing close to Subic Bay, PERKINS got underway for storm evasion. As it turned out, the storm veered more to the north than forecasted and the predicted damage to the Subic area did not result. With the storm to the west of Luzon, PERKINS returned to Subic on 12 September.

Two days later PERKINS took part in shore bombardment exercises at the NGFS range at Tabones, R.P., returning to Subic Bay on 15 September for more upkeep. On the 19th, in company with USS BUCK, the ship transited to Kao-Hsiung, Taiwan, and arrived on the 21st for a four-day visit. On 25 September PERKINS departed Kao-Hsiung for another gunline assignment with Task Unit 70.8.9. From 27 September to 10 October, PERKINS received almost daily NGFS missions. This was her final gunline assignment of the deployment. PERKINS fired a total of 2,069 rounds of 5"38 ammunition on NGFS missions during her deployment.

On 3 October 1970, during this last gunline tour, CDR Richard W. REED, USN, relieved CDR Louis H. HAMEL III, USN, as PERKINS' Commanding Officer.

From 2MR, PERKINS proceeded to her next assignment which was to last one month. From 11 October until 10 November the ship operated with the USS ORISKANY (CVA 34) (Task Group 77.5). During this period, CO PERKINS was assigned the duties of Screen Commander (CTU 77.5.2). Of this month-long period, 10 days (18 to 28 October) were spent in Yokosuka, Japan. PERKINS' longest single upkeep period became even more valuable due to extra repairs which were necessitated by damage which the ship incurred in rough weather which marked the transit to Japan. During transit back to Yankee Station, PERKINS took part in ASW exercises with the USS BLACKFIN (SS 322) in the operating areas off Okinawa. PERKINS was responsible for preparing the letter of instruction and coordinating these exercises which were participated in by the USS RICHARD B. ANDERSON and the USS JAMES C. OWENS (DD 776). In addition to the ASW operations, the entire task unit participated in Operation "Blue Sky," an AAW exercise conducted in conjunction with the Air Force of the Republic of China. On 10 November, PERKINS was relieved of Screen Commander duties and proceeded independently to Subic Bay, arriving on the 12th for a four-day upkeep period.

On 16 November PERKINS departed Subic Bay as a unit of Task Group 77.4, which included the USS HANCOCK (CVA 19) and the USS KNOX (DE 1052). For the 12 days the ship operated with this task group, CO of PERKINS was again assigned the duties of Screen Commander (CTU 77.4.2).

From the Yankee Station assignment with TG 77.4, PERKINS went to North SAR station on 28 November, where she was escort ship for the USS WAINWRIGHT (DLG 28). The North SAR station was dissolved for three days to permit both PERKINS and WAINWRIGHT to participate in Operation "Beacon Tower Six" (11 to 13 December). During the first phases of this exercise, PERKINS escorted WAINWRIGHT and later operated with the USS RANGER (CVA 61) and the USS RICHARD B. ANDERSON. PERKINS returned to North SAR station with WAINWRIGHT on the 14th.

On 17 December PERKINS departed the Tonkin Gulf and headed for Hong Kong, B.C.C. for the Christmas holidays. PERKINS arrived in the British free port on the 20th. For eight days, only two of which were marked by inclement weather, the crew enjoyed a well-deserved rest and recreation period. The visit was made even more special for five members of the ship's company who spent the time with their wives, who had flown from Los Angeles to Hong Kong under the new program instituted by Z-Gram 6. PERKINS departed for an upkeep period in Subic Bay, with a detour to Yankee Station to operate on the 29th and early part of the 30th with the USS HANCOCK, and spending New Years Eve at sea enroute to Subic Bay.

The year 1970 was marked by intensive operations for the USS PERKINS (DD 877) and this 25-year-old destroyer met every assigned commitment.